

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 9, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco *CHR*

Subject: Weekly Report: August 3 - August 9, 1996

UPDATES ON KEY INITIATIVES

WAIVERS

Alabama Medicaid -- The state has accepted an HHS offer that resolves the state's disproportionate share (DSH) problem, at least for the next several months. HHS had been planning to withhold nearly \$100 million because it believed that the state was evading the limits on the Medicaid DSH program. As a result, the state has been planning major budget cuts on September 1, including cuts in nursing homes, and the state attorney general (a Republican running for Sen. Heflin's seat) has been planning to file a lawsuit. However, under the agreement reached the state will receive the money up front, and the matter will be resolved, if necessary, through a long-term appeals process.

New York Medicaid -- HHS will send draft terms and conditions to New York State officials in the coming week for their longstanding Medicaid waiver request. It will include a number of requirements on how to phase in managed care that the state may reject. HHS will keep advocates and others who have concerns about the waiver request up to date.

Michigan Child Welfare -- Apparently, HHS is pushing approval of Michigan's waiver request to block grant child welfare programs - a proposal that the President and many other Democrats had fought to remove from HR 4, the welfare bill. The issue may become politically volatile, and OMB has legitimate policy concerns about this waiver.

HEALTH CARE

Medicare Subvention -- The Administration sent legislation to Congress this week establishing a demonstration project to test Medicare reimbursement at VA health care facilities for care provided to Medicare-eligible veterans. DPC coordinated the release of a statement from the President announcing transmittal of the legislation. The statement notes that DoD and HCFA plan to have a Medicare subvention proposal for military hospitals ready in the near future.

Connecticut MOU -- DPC, NPR, and HUD staff traveled to

Connecticut this week to meet with regional federal agency representatives and state officials to help move forward the CT Neighborhood Revitalization Partnership established by the "Memorandum of Understanding" signed by the Vice President, Carol Rasco, other Administration officials, Governor Rowland and other Connecticut officials. The state and communities are in the early stages of developing neighborhood revitalization plans. The meeting provided an opportunity to demonstrate Administration commitment to the MOU and to give regional representatives a sense of community needs.

HIV / AIDS

Public-Private Research Forum -- On Friday, August 2nd, the Vice President committed the Administration to participate in a new Forum for Collaborative HIV Research. This initiative was developed at the Vice President's request following a meeting with pharmaceutical company representatives in February. The goal of the forum is to catalyze new collaboration between the public (NIH, HCFA, HRSA) and private (drug companies, insurance companies, HMOs) sectors in conducting clinical effectiveness trials of AIDS therapies. The effort could become a model for leveraging more resources for clinical trials in all areas of biomedical research. Patsy Fleming did interviews with the AP and Wall Street Journal on this subject.

CRIME AND DRUGS

National Community Policing Number -- DPC staff have been working with the Justice Department on implementing the President's call to develop a national community policing number that is as easy to use and remember as 911. We are working with a few pilot cities to begin the project. ← when

50,000 Cell Phones DPC staff have been working with the Justice Department to implement the President's announcement that the cellular phone industry will donate 50,000 cellular phones to community watches throughout the country. An application form has been drafted and 11,000 applications will be printed and distributed to police stations and community activists throughout the country.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Violence Against Women Act ruling -- A federal judge in Roanoke, VA, last week found unconstitutional a provision in the Violence Against Women Act that gave physically abused women the right to sue their attackers for damages. We are examining the ruling's impact.

SOCIAL POLICY

Teen Pregnancy Prevention -- DPC staff continue to work with HHS to schedule outreach events for Dr. Foster and provide him with

any needed briefing materials. He has events scheduled through November and is working closely with DPC staff and HHS to coordinate his activities.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities -- The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) that was included in the Minimum Wage bill will provide over the next year "wage credit" similar to the \$3000 wage subsidy currently available to Empowerment Zone (EZ) residents. The WOTC would provide a \$2100 credit to "high risk youth" (as designated by a local agency) who live in an EZ or Enterprise Community and are between the ages of 18 and 25.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS

Tuesday, I participated in the Paralympic Torch Ceremony.

Thursday, I held the second discussion session on the state of the country's child welfare system. For this session, we spoke with Jess McDonald, Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Clarice Walker, President, National Black Child Development Institute; Donald Schmid, Director, Children and Family Services, North Dakota Department of Human Services; and Laurie Rankin, Executive Vice President and Principal, Blatner Associates, Health and Human Services Consultants.

Thursday, I also held a meeting on disability policy review and employment and attended the swearing-in ceremony for Madeline May Kunin.

Friday, Bruce Reed and I held the first welfare reform implementation working group session with departments, agencies and White House staff. We are focusing on three tasks: working with the NGA and other organizations to ensure smooth implementation; developing proposals to expand job opportunities for those leaving welfare; and coordinating the bill signing and other communications activities.

Tuesday and Wednesday, Patsy Fleming visited the Charlotte, NC area for the 12th in a series of AIDS site visits and regional briefings held around the country. These have provided an invaluable opportunity to showcase federally funded AIDS programs for the local press and to receive feedback from community representatives about federal policies and unmet needs. This trip included a meeting with the editorial board of the Charlotte Observer.

Lyn Hogan on my staff continues to speak on radio in support of the Administration's position on welfare reform. This week she has been a guest on: the Lisa Mitchell Show, WOL Radio,

Baltimore and D.C.; WJLB, Detroit; Magic 102.3 in D.C.; and WENN, Birmingham, Alabama.

DPC staff spoke at the Women's Office's briefing for Disabled People's International Women's Group.

TRAVEL AND PRESS

I will be in Atlanta from August 11 - 16 to participate in events relating to the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games. While there, I will: co-chair a two-day Paralympic Congress Consensus Session entitled "Making Sports Opportunities Available to Children with Disabilities Worldwide;" give the welcoming remarks for the first International Disability Film Festival; visit disability technology projects at the Georgia Institute for Technology; join the Vice President and Mrs. Gore at the Paralympics Opening Ceremony Gala (at the Carter Center) and the Opening Ceremonies of the Xth Paralympiad; attend the Paralympic Congress' Closing Press Conference; and conclude my visit by speaking, along with Andy Fleming (President and CEO of the Paralympic Games) and others, at the dedication ceremony for the opening of the Abilities Expo --- a trade show of products for people with disabilities. I expect to conduct interviews with disability and mainstream press throughout the week.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1996

*Copies have
been sent to
all DPC staff
JRL*

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco *CHR*

Subject: Weekly Report for August 10 - August 25, 1996

UPDATES ON KEY INITIATIVES

WAIVERS

New York Medicaid Waiver -- New York State officials had a fairly positive reaction to HHS's proposed conditions for approval of the state's longstanding request for a Medicaid waiver. HHS proposed a number of restrictions on the state's phase-in schedule for managed care. Advocates and others who have opposed the waiver seem fairly comfortable with HHS's position.

Welfare Waivers -- Along with HHS and OMB, we are working to clarify the status of pending requests for welfare waivers in light of the national legislation. HHS approved waivers in Minnesota, Indiana, Maryland, and Hawaii Friday, and today will approve waivers in Washington DC, Idaho, Kansas, and California.

HEALTH CARE

Reform Initiatives -- DPC staff are developing possible new health reform steps, including proposals to increase insurance coverage for workers in transition and for children, expand the use of purchasing pools, and improve quality in managed care plans. We are also working with Communications and Legislative Affairs in preparation for the signing of the Kennedy-Kassebaum health reform bill.

CRIME AND DRUGS

Brady Bill and Domestic Violence -- DPC staff have been working on a proposal to extend the Brady Bill to domestic violence misdemeanors. Currently, Brady applies to felons but not misdemeanors; however, the overwhelming majority of domestic violence cases are misdemeanors. This legislation, which Senator Lautenberg has been pushing through the Senate, would prohibit a domestic violence offender from purchasing a firearm.

Domestic Violence. A federal judge in Roanoke, VA ruled unconstitutional a federal provision contained in the Violence Against Women Act that gave physically abused women the right to sue their attackers for damages. The Solicitor General's office is deciding whether or not to appeal the decision. DoJ's Violence

Against Women Office has not issued a formal statement on the court ruling, but is letting the press know that, although they are disappointed with the ruling, it does not go to the heart of the Violence Against Women Act.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Announcement: DPC staff have been working with other White House Offices to build an interagency environmental initiative for announcement during the week of August 26. The proposal will focus on giving families the tools they need to protect communities from toxics.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

TRAVEL AND PRESS

National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) -- On August 16, 1996, Dennis Burke spoke at NAPO's national convention in Dallas on our anti-crime agenda. General McCaffrey and Joe Brann, the Director of the COPS office, will speak there today.

I was in Atlanta from August 11-16 participating in events relating to the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games. While there, I: co-chaired a two-day Paralympic Congress Consensus Session entitled "Making Sports Opportunities Available to Children with Disabilities Worldwide;" gave the welcoming remarks for the first International Disability Film Festival; visited disability technology projects at the Georgia Institute for Technology; joined the Vice President in a photo-op with the U.S. Paralympic Team and at the Opening Ceremonies; attended the Paralympic Congress' Closing Press Conference; and concluded my visit by speaking at the dedication ceremony for the Abilities Expo --- a trade show of products for people with disabilities. All events were open to the media. In addition, I conducted several one-on-one interviews with disability and mainstream press throughout the week including: Atlanta Constitution, New York Times, local TV and radio stations, Ability magazine, and Mainstream magazine. I also co-authored an op-ed with Bob Williams of HHS which ran in the Atlanta Constitution on August 15.

August 15, 1996

Given the chance to play

People with disabilities have come a long way in the past few decades, but sports is one of the last remaining frontiers.

By Carol H. Rasco and Bob Williams

Two weeks ago the world marveled at the achievements of the Olympic athletes. Now it's the Paralympians' turn. These elite athletes will show us how much people with disabilities can accomplish when given the opportunity.

People with disabilities have come a long way in the past few decades, but sports is one of the last remaining frontiers. Sports and physical education are too often considered only as therapy for children with disabilities — activities for health improvement, but not necessarily for personal growth and fulfillment, let alone to have fun.

Experts say sports are good for kids, and studies cite the growth and development they can spur. But you don't need an expert to see the benefits. Sports allow our bodies to work and our souls to rejuvenate. In their essence, sports are social, and young people grow in the course of that socialization.

Too many children with disabilities are on the sidelines instead of on a team. They don't experience the bittersweet joys that accompany winning and losing, the fun of playing a game, the thrill of competition and the mutual support that typifies teamwork.

Then there's language. Young people with disabilities are often spoken to differently than their peers — more loudly, slowly and clearly, as if they are from a foreign country. In sports, there is no time for this. The ball is coming toward you, the game has begun. What a relief!

Another benefit is physical contact. For young people with disabilities, the main sources of physical contact are parents, medical personnel, caregivers and attendants. Through fear — of fragility, of contagion, of difference — young people with disabilities are deprived of one of the basic elements of life: touch. They are often isolated in the classroom for logistical reasons. In sports, young people can become comfortable with



WILLIAM BERRY / Staff

The Paralympic Games, which open today in Atlanta, attest to the power of sports.

one another, behave naturally, and test their bodies and reactions.

Also, young people with disabilities are often surrounded by adults. They need a break! Engaging in sports may be their first opportunity to be away from home. They need to have recreation that is not tightly supervised. They need to be silly, mischievous, rowdy, affectionate and exhilarated. Nothing else does it like inclusion in sports activities.

For society, participating in sports can make a better and more productive citizenry. Sports gives children experience in conflict resolution, negotiating skills, taking turns, strategizing, concentrating, following instructions, solving problems, attending to time, supporting peers, assessing strengths and weaknesses, and working cooperatively. All of these skills are indispensable in any workplace.

At the Third Paralympic Congress being held in Atlanta this week, we will examine

how to make sports opportunities available worldwide to children with disabilities. We will look at solutions at the community level in schools, inside and outside government.

As the Paralympics puts the spotlight on these elite athletes, more mentors and heroes with disabilities will emerge. Young people with and without disabilities — naturally loathe popular sports figures for leadership and inspiration. But the very best way they can learn sportsmanship and courage is by participating in sports themselves. Children need heroes, but they should live not only vicariously. They should feel that they have within themselves the capability to make their dreams real.

Carol H. Rasco, President Clinton's chief advisor for domestic policy, is the mother of a 23-year-old son with mild retardation and cerebral palsy. Bob Williams is commissioner of administration on developmental disabilities at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Atlanta Constitution 8/13/90

Advocates of disabled sing of hope, fear to Clinton aides in town for congress

By Doug Cumming
STAFF WRITER

Singing an odd version of a Frankie Valli tune, three advocates for disabled children in Georgia made their case to two top Clinton administration officials Monday.

"Let's hold on . . . to what we got," sang the trio of moms that included Jenni H. Clark, local co-

ordinator for Family Voices and mother of a 3-year-old with severe epilepsy, lung disease and other health conditions.

The mothers were among a score of advocates and disabled children taking advantage of Washington officials being in town for the Third Paralympic Congress, an international summit linked to the Paralympic Games. At a hotel breakfast, they

lobbied Judy Heumann, assistant U.S. secretary of education for special education and rehabilitation, and Carol Rasco, President Clinton's chief adviser for domestic policy.

Heumann and Rasco said they share the moms' worries about the need to "hold on . . . to what we got." Heumann said sections of the federal law underlying special education are being held up for reauthorization in the Senate.

Rasco, the Arkansas mother of a 23-year-old with mild retardation and cerebral palsy, said federal school-to-work training programs need to be fully available to the disabled, to help lower an unemployment rate as high as 65 percent. "We often feel that the education we struggled to get for Hamp [her son] has brought him to the edge of a cliff," she said.

Clark, a Lawrenceville mother with the national advocacy

group Family Voices, said the group's concerns did not favor one political side over another. She pointed out that advocates for the disabled were not happy with provisions in the welfare reform Clinton signed.

The advocates expressed particular concern about the fate of the so-called Katie Beckett Deeming Waiver, which deems parents of disabled children eligible for Medicaid even though

their income may be too high. The Georgia Coalition for Health, asked by Gov. Zell Miller to look at Medicaid, has representatives from business and other groups, but no one who is disabled, Clark said.

A spokesman for the coalition acknowledged this, but said members had listened closely to many disabled advocates during 14 hearings held around the state since May.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco *CH*

Subject: Weekly Report for September 14-20, 1996

UPDATES ON KEY INITIATIVES

HEALTH CARE

"Anti-Gag" Rule -- Members from both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Hill continue work to find an appropriate legislative vehicle for a provision to prohibit health plans from restricting medical communications between health care providers and their patients. This so-called "anti-gag" legislation may be amended to the C.R. or some other free-standing appropriations bill.

CRIME AND DRUGS

Domestic Violence Offenders and Firearms -- We drafted a letter from the President to Speaker Gingrich thanking him for joining the President in supporting a ban on firearms for domestic violence offenders and urging him to use his leadership to send a bill to the President for his signature.

Gang Prosecution Grant Program -- In keeping with the President's commitment to take on street gangs like we did the mob, we have been working with the Justice Department on a grant program for jurisdictions to hire gang prosecutors. The funding would come from the Republican-created block grant. In addition, the Administration sent legislation to the Hill this week that would lengthen the statute of limitations for Federal murder cases and gang racketeering cases from five years to ten years.

California/Arizona Marijuana Legalization for Medicinal Use Propositions -- California and Arizona both have propositions on the November ballot that would permit physicians to prescribe marijuana to seriously ill patients. Both are loosely written and would allow anyone who cultivated marijuana to claim it is for medicinal purposes. In addition, the Arizona proposition would provide automatic parole for anyone currently in prison for a "use" or "possession" charge of any controlled substance. In effect, under this provision, a LSD trafficker who pled down to a

"use" charge would be back out on the street if this proposition passed. Both propositions are supposedly favored in current polls and the proponents intend to engage in an expensive media blitz for their position. ONDCP, HHS, Education, and DPC are considering enlisting the help of anti-drug groups to counter this media campaign. General McCaffrey has spoken out against both propositions in recent visits to each state.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Federal Family-Friendly Work Arrangements -- Elaine Kamarck and I convened the Domestic Policy Council on Tuesday to discuss the implementation of the President's June 21, 1996 memorandum on federal family friendly work arrangements. The memorandum directs each agency to review their personnel practices and develop a plan of action to utilize the flexible policies already in place and, to the extent feasible, expand their ability to provide their employees a broader range of options. Experts in the field presented the Council with an overview of family-friendly practices in both the private and public sectors. Reports on department/agency progress are due November 18, 1996.

Partnerships for Stronger Families -- The Steering Committee of this interagency effort to make the federal government more responsive to localities met Wednesday. Pending products include a "Family.Gov" web page, National Indicators on Child-Well Being and a plan for better coordinated technical assistance.

Rural Development Strategy -- On September 20, I co-hosted a meeting of federal agencies with Jill Long Thompson of the Department of Agriculture to begin a discussion of how federal agencies can better serve rural communities. We heard presentations from Dr. Arthur Cartero of the North Hampton Enterprise community and from Eric Stein of a North Carolina community development bank. They noted how successful the EZ/EC initiative has been in restoring hope to communities and giving localities leverage to make changes. We will be working with the federal agencies in the coming months to further improve service to rural areas.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS AND SPEECHES

Monday I met with Tom Nerney, Donald Shumway and Rosemary Gibson from the Robert Wood Johnson concerning the Foundation's initiative: Self-Determination for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

Thursday and Friday, I met with several child welfare professionals in town for the annual National Conference On Abuse and Neglect. Following is a list of those I talked with:

Thomas Curran, M.S.W., J.D., Staff Attorney, Child Advocacy Unit
of the Defender Association of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Paul A. Mones, Attorney and Children's Advocate, Portland, Oregon

Susan Notkin, Director, Program For Children, Edna McConnell
Clark Foundation, NY, NY

Desmond (Des) K. Runyan, M.D., DrPH, Professor of Social Medicine
and Pediatrics, University of North Carolina, Department of
Social Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC

Ricardo M. Urbina, U.S. District Court Judge and Children and
Families Advocate, United States Court House for the District of
Columbia, Washington, D.C.

Terry Cross, Executive Director, National Indian Child Welfare
Association, Portland, OR

Denise Leong, Licensed Social Worker IV, Queen Lili 'Uokalani
Children's Center, Honolulu, Hawaii

Janet K. Motz, Child Protection Grants Program Administrator,
Child Protection Unit Division of Child Welfare, Colorado
Department of Human Services, Denver, CO

Adrian Rodriguez, M.S.W., Founder, Positive Alternatives For
Youth, Bowman Middle School, Plano, TX

Linda K. Tauber, Children's Social Worker III, County of Los
Angeles, Dept. of Social Services, Children's Services,
Lancaster, CA

Friday I also interviewed with Nan Rich, President of the
National Council on Jewish Women.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 27, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco *CHR*

Subject: Weekly Report for September 21-27, 1996

UPDATES ON KEY INITIATIVES

WELFARE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

Start of New Block Grant Program Replacing AFDC -- As of October 1, the new Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant goes into effect, although states may choose to delay their entry into the program until July 1, 1997. Approximately 10 states are expected to have filed state plans with HHS as of the October 1 date. HHS is expected to approve Wisconsin's and Michigan's plans by September 30.

Wisconsin Waiver -- HHS plans to wrap up its activities on the Wisconsin waiver request on Monday, September 30 by sending the state two letters. One letter will address the state's requests on welfare by informing the state that it no longer needs waivers to implement its welfare reform plan. The other letter will reject the state's request on Medicaid by saying that it goes against our principles on health care coverage, and will offer to work with the state on alternative proposals. USDA expects to resolve food stamp waiver questions next week as well.

Additional Implementation Issues -- DPC continues to coordinate implementation efforts along with OMB, Counsel's Office and Intergovernmental Affairs. Critical issues this week have included finalizing options for states seeking assistance in delaying the implementation of the food stamps cuts for legal immigrants so that they can develop appropriate systems for verifying citizenship status and trying to reach closure with HHS on administration policy regarding existing state waivers.

CHILD WELFARE

Illinois Waiver -- The Department of Health and Human Services recently approved Illinois' child welfare waiver, the second of ten child welfare waiver demonstration projects. Delaware's waiver was the first to be approved. The Delaware and Illinois waivers are for subsidized guardianship, a new status in between foster care and adoption for cases in which family reunification

is not possible and the foster parent wants a permanent relationship but does not want to adopt.

HIV/AIDS

Grandmothers/Guardianship Project. DPC and HHS representatives met to discuss the plight of AIDS orphans and possible measures to address various guardianship options for parents dying from AIDS and their children. DPC is analyzing options with HHS for a possible AIDS event in October with the President or First Lady.

CRIME AND DRUGS

COPS Funding -- On Saturday September 28, 1996, the Vice-President will announce that the COPS program is providing \$147.9 million in funding to hire 1896 new community policing officers in 41 States.

Domestic Violence Offenders and Firearms -- We have been working with White House Legislative Affairs to have this provision added to the Omnibus Appropriations bill. On behalf of the NRA, Representative Barr (R-Ga) offered a "compromise" version that would effectively gut the bill by exempting child abusers and providing more specific protections for domestic violence offenders than for other offenders who are prohibited from owning a firearm under Federal law.

ENVIRONMENT

Air Tanker Legislation: DPC staff have been working to expedite legislation that would make excess DOD airplanes available to suppress wildfires. The legislation has passed the Senate as a freestanding bill, and is included in the Administration's and the Congress' C.R. list.

Dredging in the Port of New York and New Jersey: Two important steps were taken this week to implement the Administration's initiative to get dredging moving in the Port of New York and New Jersey. Specifically, EPA issued its rule related to testing procedures and the Corps of Engineers provided interested parties with a draft of the long-term options for disposal of dredged material. At the same time the economic interests (the unions, the port and companies) are very concerned that permits to dredge have not yet been issued. DPC and CEQ staff have met with interested groups and have been working to communicate to the Departments the high priority that should be given to resolving any issues related to permits. The Departments have taken some actions to issue permits in a timely way. This issue will continue to require attention in the coming months.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Abortion Veto Override -- DPC staff worked closely with

Legislative Affairs and the Women's Office throughout the effort to sustain the President's veto. The override effort is clearly not the end of this effort, and Senator Boxer introduced potential compromise language following the override vote that we will be looking at as a hopeful approach for next year.

Domestic Violence. My staff is working with HHS, DOJ and the Office For Women's Initiatives and Outreach to draft a Presidential Directive to the Sec. of HHS and the Attorney General. The directive would offer states technical assistance and support to implement the Family Violence Amendment to the welfare reform law. The Family Violence Amendment invites states to increase services and add protections in cases of battering or extreme cruelty. The directive will likely be announced, along with other initiatives, on Oct. 1 as part of an event to kick off Domestic Violence month.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS AND SPEECHES

Monday, I met with Kathleen Connell, Controller of California and Brad Kane, Deputy Controller of California regarding welfare reform.

Tuesday, I gave the keynote address at the opening of the Harry Smith Family Daycare Center and celebration of the Rolling Heights Center in Owensboro, Kentucky. These are two non-profit child care facilities that serve low-income families who are employed or enrolled in educational programs (college vocational or job training). I also held a roundtable discussion at Rolling Heights with faculty and family members and toured both facilities.

Wednesday, I held a welfare reform implementation meeting with the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the US Conference of Mayors.

Thursday, I gave the keynote speech at the Families and Communities Together: Prevention Works Conference in Orlando, Florida. I also held roundtable discussions with the Executive Board, the Conference Planning Committee and a youth group.

Friday, I traveled to Tallahassee, Florida and met with child welfare and child health care officials and participated in a working group luncheon at Governor Chiles's residence. Women's Issues/Beijing Conference. On Saturday I will be the keynote speaker at the Tallahassee, Florida site of the "UN Women's Conference One Year Later." Friday evening I will hold media interviews about the conference, attend a reception with Florida women leaders, and attend a dinner with conference Steering Committee members hosted by Mrs. Rhea Chiles, the committee chair.

Child Welfare/Children and Family Issues. A member of my staff spoke via teleconference on children's issues and child welfare reform to students at the Honors College of Henderson State University in Arkansas.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 11, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco *CHR*
Subject: Weekly Report for October 5 - 11, 1996

UPDATES ON KEY INITIATIVES

WELFARE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

HHS Guidance on TANF State Plans -- This week HHS gave written guidance to states on several issues surrounding the new welfare block grant (TANF), including how the Secretary will judge whether a plan is complete and how to implement the 45-day comment period.

Approval of TANF State Plans -- HHS will probably approve a few state plans in the coming week, but doesn't yet know which ones. Twenty-six states have sent plans to HHS, and three (Wisconsin, Michigan, and Florida) have been certified as complete by HHS.

California Request Under TANF -- California has just filed its TANF state plan with HHS. Like almost all states, California benefits financially if it moves from AFDC to TANF as soon as possible. However, the state has not yet sorted through the specifics of its plan for requiring work. Therefore, the state is requesting that it get access to the higher TANF funding levels immediately, but that it not be subject to time limits or other restrictions until it exhausts its state contribution. New York may submit a similar request shortly. HHS is examining this issue from a legal and policy perspective, and we are beginning to do so as well.

HCFA Guidance on Welfare Reform Effect on Medicaid -- HCFA released guidance to states this week on the new welfare law's effect on Medicaid for legal immigrants and disabled children who lose SSI benefits, and on the separate eligibility systems states must maintain for Medicaid now that it is no longer linked to welfare. In addition, HCFA announced that states wishing to drop legal immigrants from Medicaid as of January 1 must file a document with HCFA, while those wishing to continue to cover legal immigrants need not take any action to do so.

Guidance for States on Food Stamps for Legal Immigrants and 40 Quarters Exemption --

We expect that USDA will be ready to release guidance to states in the coming week on how to verify whether a legal immigrant has worked for 40 quarters in this country and is therefore eligible for food stamps. States have been using different and sometimes overly strict rules to interpret this part of the law.

New Definition of Childhood Disability -- We are continuing to work with OMB and SSA to implement the welfare law's new definition of childhood disability. SSA has some latitude legally to determine how many children will lose benefits. Options range from 45,000 to 190,000 children now on the rolls. A small group of Democratic and moderate Republican Senators (Dasohle, Conrad, Chafee, Cohen) have joined with disability advocates to push for dropping as few children as possible. We are concerned that our action not provoke a backlash from those who wanted even tougher standards applied, especially since our budget included a tough standard. We have asked SSA to develop some additional options for review over the coming weeks.

Medicaid Waivers -- HHS is completing its review of Medicaid waivers in Alabama and Maryland, with approval expected in the next few weeks. Both waivers will expand the use of managed care.

VETERANS

Response to the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments (ACHRE) : DoJ has drafted legislation to implement improvements in compensation for miners under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. The draft is now under formal review within the Administration. This legislation is part of a comprehensive response to ACHRE's recommendations we expect to complete in November.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Dredging in the Port of New York and New Jersey: In a reversal of her previous position, Governor Whitman has dropped opposition to a key provision in the Administration's plan to get dredging moving in the NY-NJ Harbor. The reversal was contained in a jointly-released dredging plan from New York and New Jersey, which tracks much of the Administration's plan, and adds important contributions from the states. The press has been favorable, both for the states and for the Administration (press clipping attached). We expect further developments in the next few days--including issuance of the first major dredging permits.

CRIME AND DRUGS

Baltimore 311 Non-Emergency Number -- This program, launched October 2, has been very successful. The Police Commissioner reported the 311 non-emergency number received over 1,400 calls the first day, and has greatly reduced the burden on 911 and the number of unnecessary police dispatches. Press clippings have all cited the program as a response to the President's call for a national community policing number. Several police chiefs from across the country have contacted Baltimore for advice on setting up similar programs.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS AND SPEECHES

Monday through Wednesday I was in Racine, Wisconsin attending the National Association of State Directors of Special Education / Wingspread Conference.

Thursday I traveled to Santa Fe, New Mexico to address the National Association of State Comprehensive Health Insurance Plans (NASCHIP) regarding the impact of the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill on state high-risk insurance pools.

Friday I was at the University of New Orleans meeting with university presidents of the "Urban 13" -- a group of 21 leading urban universities -- to discuss how they can work with the Administration to renew our cities.

Attachment

PRESS

DATE OCT 8 1996

Whitman shifts ocean dumping stance

By TODD E. BATES
and KIRK MOORE
STAFF WRITERS

GOV. WHITMAN has dropped her opposition to dumping moderately contaminated sludge into the Mud Dump Site as part of a bi-state agreement that will allow more than 5 million cubic yards, or tons, of sediment to be dredged from New York Harbor.

Whitman and New York Gov. George E. Pataki yesterday announced a multi-million-dollar plan to dredge the harbor next year. The agreement allows ocean dumping of sediment, although that is still supposed to be the option of last resort until the Mud Dump closes for good Sept. 1, 1997.

The plan could allow about 2 million cubic yards of moderately tainted bottom sludge to be dumped at the Mud Dump, six miles east of Sea Bright — unless alternatives are found.

The agreement follows a federal plan negotiated partly by congressional Democrats and several environmental groups and released in July, that recommends allowing dumping as a last resort until Sept. 1.

Before winning election in 1993, Whitman opposed the ocean dumping of discolored Newark Bay sediment, which federal agencies considered moderately tainted. Environmental activists, who vehemently opposed that dumping plan, spent more than three years fighting it in federal court. While they did not block the dumping, a judge ruled that federal agencies illegally issued the dumping permit.

Last year, Carl Golden, Whitman's communications director, said "the governor is opposed to dumping in the ocean of any kind."

Asked if Whitman has changed her stance, spokeswoman Joyce Kachovich said yesterday: "I think that this is for a limited period of time, and this was what was agreed to by a number of environmental groups and the federal government as a way

to further closure of the Mud Dump site, which is really everyone's goal ...

"If there are other sites that become available for the disposal of these materials, they will not go to the Mud Dump site, so it's really still as a last resort," Kachovich said.

The bi-state plan dovetails with the federal plan. Both recommend covering the Mud Dump and surrounding contaminated areas with clean, dredged material.

Robert K. Tucker, a marine scientist and director of the Estopology Center at Rutgers University, said "technically, I would like to see dumping end as soon as possible, but I think overall, the agreement to end dumping by September with capping of the site is of real environmental benefit."

In a joint statement, Cynthia A. Zupl, executive director of Clean Ocean Action, and Derickson W. Bonnett, executive director of the American Littoral Society, said Whitman's "vision in 1993 of ending ocean dumping of contaminated material ... served as a catalyst of this new era."

Under the bi-state plan, New Jersey would spend \$185 million in bond dollars for dredging projects, technologies for decontaminating materials, and building disposal facilities, such as an island to contain sludge. The money would, if voters approve, come from a \$365 million bond issue referendum on the Nov. 5 ballot.

In addition, \$65 million from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey would go to dredging projects and to build underwater pits in Newark Bay by next June for burying tainted materials. The bi-state plan also seeks to curb the flow of pollutants into the harbor.

Critics of ocean dumping insist decontamination technology is the ultimate answer for dealing with the harbor's most contaminated sediments. But at a recent meeting in the Nether-

lands, Dutch authorities indicated they are moving away from their repeated efforts to clean up dry sediments, according to American experts.

"They're looking at increasing their containment capacity ... and cleaning up the sources" of pollution, according to J. Frederick Gramia, director of Rutgers University's Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences.

Dutch scientists are about 10 years ahead of the United States in applying mud-capping technology, but the cost is high, typically \$40 to \$50 per cubic yard, said Dennis J. Suszkowski, science director for the Hudson River Foundation and an organizer of last month's Netherlands workshop on estuary research.

In the meantime, agreements among European governments to reduce pollution in the Rhine River are starting to show up as lower contaminant levels in the Rhine delta and North Sea ports of Hamburg and Rotterdam, Suszkowski said.

"They are generally reducing the flow (of contamination) into it" and in 20 years the Dutch think sediments won't pose a pollution threat, Suszkowski said.

So now Dutch authorities want to spend less money on cleanup technology and more on containment facilities to seal them through the next decades, he said.

cc: all dpc staff.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 4, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco

Subject: Weekly Report for September 28 - October 4, 1996

UPDATES ON KEY INITIATIVES

WELFARE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

States Applying for New Welfare Block Grant -- More states than expected have sent plans to HHS so that they can enter the new TANF block grant program -- 23 states as of October 2. States have until July 1997 to enter. HHS's role is to certify that the plans are complete. HHS has approved Michigan's and Wisconsin's plans; both states used their pending waiver applications as the template for their TANF state plan. HHS is still determining the timeframe for their review of a plan's completeness, currently saying it will be no less than 30-45 days.

Florida State Plan -- HHS resolved a significant problem in Florida. The state sent HHS a plan on September 20 that indicated the state would begin its new program rules under TANF on October 1. It implemented its new program October 1, before HHS approved the plan, including starting the clock ticking on time limits and referring mothers of young children to work programs. The state could have been sued on the grounds that it was operating the plan illegally. Although HHS resolved this problem at the last minute, the episode highlights the need for HHS to provide the states with written guidance on how the new program will work.

Food Stamps and Legal Immigrants who have worked 40 quarters -- One of the few ways that legal immigrants can still qualify for food stamps is if they have worked at least 40 quarters in this country. Accurately determining whether someone has worked 40 quarters can be a very labor-intensive process. As states implement the new welfare reform law, it appears they are giving inconsistent or even incorrect instructions to field staff on this question. In the cases we are aware of, states' rules appear to exclude eligible immigrants. We are working with USDA and SSA to develop instructions to states and get them out quickly; from a legal perspective we do not yet know if they can be mandatory or must be permissive.

VETERANS

Medicare Subvention -- Neither the Administration's VA nor DoD Medicare Subvention proposals cleared Congress this session. The Administration submitted legislation for a pilot project for VA subvention in August. Representatives Stump and Montgomery introduced a version of our proposal, but made little progress on moving it forward. The Administration submitted legislation for a DoD demonstration in mid-September. There was considerable more movement on the DoD bill, but apparent disagreement between the House Committees of jurisdiction prevented any final action. Both these proposals are expected to have life in the next session.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS AND SPEECHES

Sunday I attended the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church service, welcoming Bishop Felton Mdy, newly appointed to this area.

Monday I met with 12 national chefs from the Chef and Child Foundation, a philanthropic arm of the American Culinary Federation, to discuss issues of childhood hunger and nutrition. CCF promotes and coordinates efforts of ACF members involved in ending hunger in their communities across the country.

Tuesday I met with representatives of the Parent Education Advocacy Training Centers for disabled children and their families.

Wednesday I met with representatives of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Administrative officials regarding a new project for people with disabilities.

Friday I met with a group of Kellogg Fellows regarding children and families and also addressed the Community Enterprise Board regarding EZ/EC progress and challenges for future programming.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 18, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco 
Subject: Weekly Report for October 12 - 18, 1996

UPDATES ON KEY INITIATIVES

WELFARE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

HHS Review of TANF State Plans -- New Jersey and South Carolina submitted TANF plans to HHS this week, bringing the total number of states that have filed to enter the program to 28. HHS did not certify any plans as complete this week, leaving the total number of state plans approved to date at three. In their plans, most states are indicating that, for now, they will operate their programs as they were under the old law or under their waivers. More changes are expected in the spring when state legislatures convene.

Guidance to States on "40 Quarters" Exemption -- Advocates and states have responded positively to our plan to offer guidance to states on how to determine whether legal immigrants still qualify for food stamps because they have worked for 40 quarters in this country. We expect to release this guidance in the next few days.

Options on Medicaid/SSI Linkage -- Legal immigrants on SSI could lose Medicaid even in states that take advantage of their option to continue Medicaid coverage of legal immigrants. This is because they are eligible for Medicaid by virtue of their SSI eligibility, and they may not qualify for other entry points to Medicaid such as having dependent children. HHS is investigating whether it is possible to construct a mechanism by which legal immigrants could automatically keep Medicaid, but has not yet determined whether this is legally feasible.

Determining Cost Neutrality for Old Waivers -- We have begun the process of sorting through how to revise our waiver agreements with states regarding cost neutrality. We always insisted that welfare waivers must be cost neutral, considering the combined effects of AFDC, food stamps, and Medicaid changes. The switch from AFDC to TANF makes it necessary to revisit each of these agreements. We are determining the policies that will guide us in this process.

Letter to Advocacy Community and States on Timing of SSI Changes -- We are working with the Social Security Administration on a letter to advocacy groups and to states to clarify that SSA will not drop legal immigrants or children from the SSI program until the middle of next year at the earliest. There has been some misinformation in communities that the cuts could be coming much sooner.

Housing Issues -- One of the areas of most serious concern among service providers to low-income communities is the impact of the welfare bill on affordable housing. On the one hand, they are worried that those families losing income -- e.g., immigrants, food stamp recipients -- will have greater difficulty paying rent and will lose their housing. On the other hand, they are worried that housing rent policies do not support welfare-to-work efforts. Those leaving welfare for work in public housing or Section 8 housing will find their rents increasing and a large percentage of their disposable income going toward housing costs. HUD is looking at possible action to address both of these problems.

Welfare to Work -- OMB has convened a working group to develop the specifications of the \$3 billion Welfare to Work plan announced at the convention. They hope to have the details finalized for decision meetings in early December. There will be some difficult issues concerning the extent of public vs. private sector jobs, targeting, and who should administer the program. DPC, NEC, and OMB will be preparing issue papers and decision memos to move the program forward.

Department of Education Outreach -- The Department of Education has been working with HHS and constituency groups in the education and disability communities to discuss provisions of the new welfare law affecting them. Disability groups are concerned that schools may have reduced access to Medicaid funds in the face of the children's SSI cuts and the changeover from AFDC to TANF. Many schools rely on Medicaid to fund special education therapies. Education groups are concerned about restrictions in the law on the amount of vocational training which can count toward the work participation requirements.

CHILD WELFARE

Child Welfare Waivers. The Department of Health and Human Services will likely soon approve child welfare waivers for Oregon, North Carolina and Ohio. If approved, the total number of approved child welfare waivers would reach five out of 10. Delaware's waiver was the first to be approved.

CHILD SUPPORT

On Thursday, October 17, 1996 the Solicitor General filed a brief in the *Blessting v. Freestone* Supreme Court case supporting a private right of action (under 42 U.S.C. 1983) to seek redress against states for violating federal child support regulations. The Administration took this position for three reasons: 1) a general belief that private citizens should have access to the court system; 2) welfare reform time limits increase the need for states to be more effective in their collection efforts; and 3) Congress has clearly emphasized the responsibility of states to provide child support services and has provided

them the tools needed to deliver services to children and families.

The American Public Welfare Association, the National Governor's Association, and the National Conference of State Legislatures strongly disagree with the Administration's decision to file a brief. These three organizations have filed a brief opposing a private right of action. These groups are concerned that litigation will divert resources away from implementing their programs. They view the Administration's action on this issue as contrary to our commitment to work with them on welfare reform implementation.

FAMILY PLANNING

International Family Planning -- The Omnibus Appropriations bill requires the President to submit a report to Congress by Feb. 1, 1997 regarding international family planning programs. DPC staff are convening a series of meetings with State Department (Global and Leg Affairs), USAID (Population and Leg Affairs) and relevant EOP staff to discuss process and strategy around the submission of Presidential findings.

TEEN PREGNANCY

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy -- The Campaign just sent out its latest update. More Campaign Task Force groups have met -- most recently the Religion and Public Values Task Force and the Media Task Force. The Campaign is also building its resource capacities as it works to become a clearinghouse for innovative teen pregnancy prevention efforts in communities across the country.

EDUCATION

Tribal Colleges Executive Order -- A proposed Executive Order establishing a White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges, housed in the Education Department and patterned after similar initiatives for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions, will be presented to the President over the weekend. Secretary Babbitt will announce this order at the National Congress of the American Indian on Monday, Oct. 21.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Air Tanker Legislation -- firefighters across the country are relieved to have in place the air tanker legislation signed by the President on October 14. Secretary Glickman is working to acknowledge the broad bipartisan support that made this new law possible.

Dredging in the Port of New York and New Jersey -- The first major dredging permit has been issued for the channel that the Queen Elizabeth II uses when it comes to New York. However, Representative Pallone hosted a community meeting to oppose one of the major long-term options to dispose of contaminated material from the harbor. About 250 members of the community attended, and local press coverage was sympathetic.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS AND SPEECHES

Wednesday, I was in Flint, Michigan where I participated in the Mott's Children's Health Center's 24th annual Tuuri Day Conference and gave the keynote address.

Friday, I met with representatives from the American Association of University Women, Women's Legal Defense Fund, and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights regarding welfare reform implementation. I also met with representatives from the National Recreation and Park Association regarding the need to encourage and support local parks and recreation.

During the events surrounding the display of the AIDS quilt, Patsy Fleming met with a number of groups and keynoted the opening of the conference of LLEGO, the national lesbian and gay Latino organization. Patsy Flemming also keynoted the National Conference on HIV/AIDS Hotlines.

PRESS

Patsy Flemming did press interviews during the AIDS quilt display regarding the Administration's response to HIV/AIDS, and appeared on PBS's America's Talking with Dennis Wholey.

for OPC staff

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
November 1, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco *CH*
Subject: Weekly Report for October 27–November 1, 1996

UPDATES ON KEY INITIATIVES

WELFARE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

HHS Approval of Welfare Block Grant State Plans -- In the next few days, HHS expects to approve TANF plans submitted by the states of Arizona, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Oregon, bringing the number of states with approved plans to seven.

Food Stamps Lawsuit in California -- Advocates in California are suing the state for subjecting legal immigrants to food stamp cuts without following proper state procedures. The Department of Justice and USDA must decide whether to become involved in this case. One option is for the federal government to side with the state and assert that state procedures are irrelevant in the face of federal law.

IMMIGRATION

Illegal Immigration Enforcement and Welfare to Work -- Today, the INS announced agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia to replace illegal workers with unemployed legal workers who are on welfare rolls in jobs that they want, need and are qualified to perform. Under this first-ever agreement with a state, INS will immediately notify officials of the Virginia Department of Social Services when the INS removes unauthorized workers from an employer's workplace in the state. This early notification will give the Virginia Employment Commission an opportunity to refer qualified workers who are unemployed and receiving state welfare benefits to these jobs.

CHILD WELFARE

Child Welfare Chat Sessions -- On Oct. 31 we completed a series of seven small two-hour discussion sessions in my office over the past four months. We talked with a total of 35 child welfare experts from around the country. In addition, in October we visited the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in Reno, Nevada during the fall training session, sitting in on classes and meeting with faculty and participants. We will now begin working to propose action steps in this field.

CRIME AND DRUGS

President's Remarks to the IACP -- Because the President was unable to attend the annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in Phoenix on October 29, 1996, we provided them with taped remarks. The video was shown before 2000 police chiefs at their general assembly. IACP was very grateful and the President's remarks were well received.

Drug Testing-Driver's Licenses -- DPC staff is providing guidance to ONDCP and DOT and other relevant agencies on their report to the President in response to his October 19, 1996 directive -- "Reducing Teenage Driving under the Influence of Illicit Drugs." The second working group meeting occurred on October 29, 1996 to assign tasks and gather information. The directive requests the agencies to report back to the President in 90 days, which will be January 17, 1997.

Federal Firearms Licenses Dealers -- DPC staff is working with the Treasury Department in studying the impact that the Brady Bill and the 1994 Clinton Crime Bill had on federal firearms license (FFLs) dealers in major urban areas. Since 1993, the number of FFLs in major cities have been reduced dramatically. For example, since 1993, the number of FFLs in New York alone have been reduced from 987 to 259. According to Former NYC Police Commissioner William J. Bratton, the reduction in FFLs has lead to a reduction in firearms violence because it has made it much more difficult to buy guns in New York, and with fewer outlets to purchase guns, law enforcement can more easily trace the origin of a gun used in a crime.

HIV/AIDS

African American Meeting -- October 22, a group of about 90 African-Americans met at the Harvard AIDS Institute to discuss the growing AIDS epidemic among blacks and what can be done to turn it around. Blacks are disproportionately affected by the epidemic. From 1990 to 1994, the annual AIDS incidence grew 69 percent among African-Americans compared with 14 percent among whites. By the year 2000, more than half of all AIDS cases in the U.S. are expected to be among blacks. Patsy Fleming, Alexis Herman and representatives of many national black organizations attended as well as providers of care and prevention services. The outcome of the meeting was a call to action for the African-American community including clergy, the media, the government, community-based organizations, educators and all others who can intervene in this deadly disease.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS AND SPEECHES

Wednesday, October 23 I keynoted a Child Care and Economic Diversification Policy Summit in Reno, Nevada sponsored by The Children's Cabinet, a child advocacy resource center which also provides services to children and families in the area. The conference was designed in conjunction with the DPC to bring together about 25 business people in that state

state with an equal number of child-serving agency personnel in Nevada to discuss child care and business within the context of welfare reform. Glenda Bean of Arkansas was also brought in to discuss the Arkansas experience in designing quality early childhood experiences through collaboration with all sectors, including the business community.

Sen. Bryan as well as Gov. Miller were present for parts of the day. It was an excellent format for talking about what business can do, and what business must be aware of as they accept their share of responsibility in welfare reform. The group left with a defined set of activities for moving the next steps in the arena of early childhood experiences for low-income children as well as the linkage of business in welfare reform.

Thursday, October 24, I visited the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges training program which is based at the University of Reno. I met with the Dean and faculty/project managers and held a roundtable with judges/probation officers and staff from state social services from around the country in for training on various facets of legal matters regarding children and families. I also attended four class sessions. The information from this visit will be invaluable as we further review initiatives to undertake in improving the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Friday, October 25, I met with the Police Chief in Reno, Nevada as he described the comprehensive approach he is taking to community policing and the youth development programs his department has initiated. Among the youth programs is the GREAT program (Gang Resistance Education and Training) which is overseen nationwide by the ATF Bureau. This a middle school program that in a comprehensive system follows upon DARE in the elementary schools. I then visited a seventh grade classroom where a Reno police officer was teaching a class; I followed this with a full class discussion as well as a smaller roundtable with four students, the officer and the teacher.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 13, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

From: Carol H. Rasco 
Subject: Weekly Report for September 7 13, 1996

UPDATES ON KEY INITIATIVES

WELFARE REFORM

State Waivers to Delay Implementation of Immigrant Food Stamp Cuts -- Seventeen states have indicated that they will accept the Department of Agriculture's offer of a waiver to delay recertification for legal immigrants on food stamps, while another nine are leaning toward doing so. We are still investigating whether delays can be fashioned for states like California that do not benefit from the waiver that USDA has extended.

Domestic Violence. My staff is working with HHS, DOJ and the Women's Office to help states fully implement the Family Violence Amendment to the welfare reform law. The Amendment invites states to increase services and add protections in cases of battering or extreme cruelty. It will help ensure that victims of domestic violence have the same opportunities as others to become self sufficient through work.

AIDS/HIV POLICY

Advisory Council Meeting -- The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS met September 8-10 in Bethesda. Members reviewed a draft of the National Strategy on HIV/AIDS prior to broader circulation of the draft to the community. They expressed support for the President's efforts to increase funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program in the current appropriations cycle. The Council also expressed a desire to work with the Administration in fixing elements of the welfare reform legislation and stated its concerns that the Defense of Marriage Act will have a negative impact on HIV prevention because of the message it sends to gay people about their self-worth.

Appropriations -- The Senate Appropriations Committee, during its consideration of the Labor-HHS bill, approved the entire \$65

million budget amendment proposed by the President for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. It also provided for a consolidated budget for AIDS research, managed through the Office of AIDS Research. These are both important victories. We are still "short" of the President's request in other parts of the Ryan White CARE Act and the CDC's prevention program.

The AIDS Policy office facilitated a discussion between the Social Security Administration and client services representatives from AIDS organizations regarding disability claims by people with AIDS. There is tremendous variation around the country in the handling of disability applications for people with AIDS, who are supposed to receive a presumptive determination if they meet certain criteria. SSA described the situation as "appalling" and has committed to taking steps to retrain field office staff.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Microenterprise. DPC staff spoke to a group of women business owners about microenterprise opportunities in the welfare reform law. SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership convened the meeting.

TEEN PREGNANCY

Dr. Foster. DPC staff helped prepare Dr. Foster to testify on teenage pregnancy prevention before the Congressional Black Caucus. Dr. Foster testified Thursday on a panel sponsored by Rep. Eva M. Clayton and Friday on a panel sponsored by Rep. Stokes. Dr. Foster has events scheduled through November and is working closely with my staff and HHS to coordinate his activities.

CRIME AND DRUGS

Gang Violence Report -- We are working with the Justice Department on a report that will be presented to the President on Monday outlining the Administration's success in dismantling and prosecuting violent street gangs across the country.

Crime Statistics -- The Bureau of Justice Statistics at the Justice Department will release new Victimization Survey statistics this weekend that will show a 10% decrease in crime over the last year. This is a dramatic decrease.

National Community Policing Number -- Baltimore received approval from the Maryland Utility Commission to use 3-1-1 as a community policing non-emergency number. In the spirit of the President's call for a national community policing number, the COPS Office will award the Baltimore Police Department a grant to assist in the implementation of this program. The new number will be operational October 1st.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Air Tanker Legislation: DPC staff have been working to expedite legislation that would make excess DOD airplanes available to suppress wildfires. The legislation has been drafted and was discussed favorably in a House hearing today. Secretary Glickman will formally transmit the legislation and will hold a press conference early next week. We are making every effort to get passage this year (we hope to proceed without objection). Coincident with this effort, CBS evening news had a story on September 9 highlighting the aging fleet of air tankers, and lauding the dedication of the pilots; in addition the September issue of National Geographic mentions this issue.

Family Right to Know: DPC and other White House staff are working with EPA to refine the President's proposal to provide families with better information about toxics and other hazards. Both legislative and non-legislative options are being considered.

Rural Development Strategy: DPC staff are working with the Department of Agriculture to create a federal rural development strategy. DPC is hosting an interagency discussion of the strategy on Friday, September 20.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Local Empowerment and Flexibility Act -- DPC, OVP, and your staff met Wednesday with Democrats on this legislation. The bill would now provide for a demonstration program, with 30 sites in six states. Three states would have to have populations below 3.5 million (about half the states would qualify).

The Department of Education's concerns with provisions related to vouchers and IDEA have been fully addressed. Hatfield had planned to offer the legislation as an amendment to Treasury/Postal Appropriations. He had a unanimous consent agreement with Sen. Kennedy (after putting in several changes) and he had added language for Senator Byrd that would protect special projects added by appropriators. The amendment was pulled, however, and we are uncertain when Hatfield will bring up the bill now. We have remained silent, which has irritated Hatfield's staff. Glenn and Levin are now signed onto the bill, and they are interested in whether our position has changed.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS AND SPEECHES

Monday & Tuesday, I attended the NGA/NCSL/APWA Conference on Welfare Reform. I delivered the keynote address for the Conference Monday.

Wednesday, Bob Nash, Paul Weinstein and I met with Bob Rapoza of Bob Rapoza Associates and a coalition of organizations advocating for a community development financial institutions initiative for rural areas to be funded by the Fund for Rural America in USDA. This is a most promising proposal and we will be working with the NEC, Kirsten Moy and USDA among others to further explore the matter.

Thursday, I met with Sarah Longaker, Executive Director, and Keith Lee from the Children's Cabinet of Reno, Nevada to follow up on the discussion on the needs of children held with their board when I visited Reno.

I also met with Dr. Robert Bezdek and Dr. Jane Wilhour from the Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi's Early Childhood Development Center model program. They have built a state of the art facility for children ages 3 through third grade and will incorporate comprehensive family services (including health delivered by the nursing education staff, counseling by the psychology department, and diagnostic work by the special education department), teacher training, middle school one week course opportunities for schools throughout Texas, distance learning and many other innovative programs.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 7, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

From: Carol H. Rasco 
Subject: Weekly Reports: June 1 - June 7, 1996

UPDATE ON KEY INITIATIVES

WAIVERS

Los Angeles County Medicaid Waiver -- Next week, HHS will probably approve an amendment to this waiver that county officials have been seeking, and will announce a joint workplan for continuing efforts on the restructuring of the county health system. This would fulfill our commitment to review the proposal submitted by the county within 45 days.

DISABILITY ISSUES

Termination of Benefits for Drug Addicts/Alcoholics -- As noted in the Cabinet Report this month, SSA is mailing notices to 200,000 SSI/SSDI beneficiaries who are on the rolls due to drug addiction or alcoholism (DA&A) that their benefits will end January 1, pursuant to legislation enacted in March. DPC staff are working with SSA and disability advocacy organizations to try to ensure that beneficiaries with DA&A who also have other, qualifying disabilities (such as AIDS/HIV) are not temporarily dropped from the rolls.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Local Empowerment and Flexibility Act -- DPC, OMB, and Leg. Affairs continue to work with Senators Hatfield, Glenn, and Levin on this legislation that would provide the Executive branch with waiver authority regarding financial assistance programs. All three departments will be meeting with staff of Sens. Hatfield and Levin to discuss additional amendments to the bill that are needed before we can offer support. Outstanding issues include ensuring that environmental, health and safety regulations are not waivable within grant programs. Other issues include ensuring the President's ability to appoint the Vice President or other individual as chairperson of a statutorily created Community Empowerment Board.

Campaign Finance Reform -- DPC, OVP, and Counsel's office coordinated with Commerce to send this week a letter to the Federal Communications Commission in support of Fox Broadcasting Co. for an exemption from the "equal opportunities" provision of Section 315 of the Communications Act to allow Fox to provide free TV air time to presidential candidates this fall.

IMMIGRATION

Legislation -- The Administration forwarded its views letter on the immigration legislation to Congress. Commissioner Meissner began meeting with conferees. (She has met with twelve so far.) Senator Kennedy's office reports that there are 40 Senators now committed to signing a letter opposing the provision to kick illegal immigrant kids out of schools. Former President Bush criticized trying to address illegal immigration by throwing kids out on the streets. Many law enforcement officials and groups -- such as the Fraternal Order of Police and International Brotherhood of Police Officers -- as well as educators continue to contact Congress in opposition to this provision.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS

On Tuesday, June 4, I spoke at the Annual Meeting of the National Transition Network about school to work and other life transitions for disabled students.

On Wednesday, June 5, I attended the CASA (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University) press conference and luncheon where Joe Califano, CASA's director, presented CASA's new report, *Substance Abuse and the American Women*. Betty Ford, her daughter Susan, and General McCaffrey also spoke.

On Wednesday I hosted a White House briefing for the National Society of Professional Engineers. Don Arbuckle of OIRA, Arati Prabhakar, Director of NIST, and Joseph Bordogna of the National Science Foundation addressed the group. Al Miller of Newport, AR has recently been elected to the Executive Committee of this organization and was with them.

On Wednesday I also spoke at a Women Information Network Dinner with three other "Women in the White House."

PRESS

On Wednesday I was interviewed by Lincoln Steed of *Listen* magazine, a magazine for young people that stresses positive choices with an emphasis on avoiding alcohol and drugs. He is planning to do a cover story on my daughter and myself.